

**State Judicial Nominating Commission
Applicant Summary Resume Form**

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STATE COURT ADMINISTRATOR

Name: Christopher McDonald

Age: 38

City of Residence: Des Moines, Iowa

Current Occupation/Title: Judge of the District Court, Fifth Judicial District of Iowa

Professional Employment History:

- **Judge of the District Court, Fifth Judicial District of Iowa, Des Moines, Iowa, 2012-present.**

I currently serve as a judge in a court of general jurisdiction in Polk County. My responsibilities include presiding over and adjudicating civil matters, criminal matters, family law matters, and administrative appeals.

- **Senior Counsel – Litigation, Aviva USA Corporation, West Des Moines, Iowa, 2010-2012.**

I provided legal advice and representation regarding litigation matters to the United States subsidiary of the world's fifth-largest insurance carrier by premium. My work was national in scope, and it included, but was not limited to: class/mass action litigation; multi-district litigation proceedings; complex civil litigation in federal courts, state courts, and administrative agencies; and internal investigation in response to regulatory inquiry. In addition to the litigation function, I also advised and represented the company on a wide range of legal issues, including, but not limited to employment law, employee benefits, and contract.

- **Member, Belin McCormick, P.C., Des Moines, Iowa, 2006-2010.**

My practice focused on: general commercial litigation; internal investigation; asset identification and recovery in the case of employee malfeasance; employment and civil rights litigation; and the provision of employment counseling and advice.

- **Attorney, Faegre & Benson LLP, Des Moines, Iowa, 2003-2006.**

My practice focused on: complex litigation; general commercial litigation; internal investigation in response to regulatory inquiry, including the Securities and Exchange Commission and different State Attorneys General; securities litigation and securities arbitration under NASD (now FINRA); employment litigation; and employment counseling.

- **Federal Judicial Clerk, Chief Judge David R. Hansen, United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, 2001-2003.**

I performed legal research, writing, and case analysis at the direction of Judge

Hansen in support of the adjudication of civil, criminal, and bankruptcy appeals as well as performing administrative tasks related to the administrative panels of the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit.

▪ **Research Assistant, Professor James J. Tomkovicz, University of Iowa College of Law, Iowa City, Iowa, 1998-2001.**

I performed legal research, writing, editing, and case analysis at the direction of Professor James J. Tomkovicz, including support of the publication of Professor Tomkovicz's casebook Criminal Procedure: Constitutional Constraints On Investigation and Proof (Lexis Publishing, 2002); his treatise The Right to the Assistance of Counsel (Greenwood Press, 2002); and the preparation of amicus briefs filed on behalf of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers and the American Civil Liberties Union in Kyllo v. United States and Florida v. J.L. before the Supreme Court of the United States.

▪ **Trial Clerk, The Iowa District Court in and for Polk County, Iowa, 1995-1998.**

I served in this position full-time while completing my undergraduate studies on nights and weekends at Grand View University. In this position, I performed administrative work for the civil division, including, case intake, docketing, processing orders and executions, file preparation for judges and court personnel, and other miscellaneous tasks.

Law-Related Professional Activities:

American Bar Association, Member

American Council of Life Insurers, Litigation Committee, 2011-2012

American Judicature Society, Member

Association of Corporate Counsel, Member, 2010-2012

Des Moines Area Community College, Legal Assistant Advisory Program, 2006-2008

Iowa Association of Corporate Counsel, Member, 2010-2012

Iowa Judges Association, Member

Iowa State Bar Association, Member

Iowa State Bar Association, Know Your Constitution Committee, 2003-2006

Iowa State Bar Association, Corporate Counsel Section, Section Council, 2010-2012

Polk County Bar Association, Member

National Conference of State Trial Judges, Iowa Delegate

Professional Awards and Honors:

Des Moines Business Record, Forty Under Forty, Class of 2007

Governor's Volunteer Award Recipient, 2010

Grand View University, Alumni Achievement Award, 2005

Stakeholders 100, Top 100 Minority Lawyers in America, Class of 2007

Academic History:

- **University of Iowa College of Law, Iowa City, Iowa, 1998-2001.**
J.D. 2001, with Highest Distinction
Co-recipient, John F. Murray Award, awarded to class valedictorian
College of Law Merit Scholar
Hancher-Finkbine Medallion Nominee
Iowa Law Review, Associate Editor
Order of the Coif Honor Society
University of Iowa Distinguished Student Leader Award
- **Grand View University, Des Moines, Iowa, 1995-1997.**
B.A. 1997, President's List and Dean's List
- **American Institute of Business, Des Moines, Iowa, 1995.**
- **University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa, 1992-1994.**
Studied Political Science and Economics